
MENTONE MATTERS

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Vol. 1, No. 16 BY AND FOR MENTONITES ABOUT MENTONE, CALIFORNIA SEPTEMBER 2018

REMEMBER THE CHILI COOK-OFF ON THE 29TH!

The Chili Cook-Off, Saturday the 29th, from 2-6 p.m., has all the participants it needs; now it just needs Mentonites and others to attend, pay \$5 to sample three chilis and vote for their favorite. Prizes are \$50 for the winner chosen by the judges, \$25 for second place, and a \$50 value gift basket for third place. Gift baskets will be available, as well as pony rides and face painting.

FIGHT THE FIRE TAX!

Mentone property owners should have received the following notification of a new fire tax:

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION TO EXPAND THE BOUNDARIES OF
SERVICE ZONE FP-5**

10:00 AM OCTOBER 16, 2018
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
1ST FLOOR COVINGTON CHAMBER
385 NORTH ARROWHEAD AVENUE
SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92415

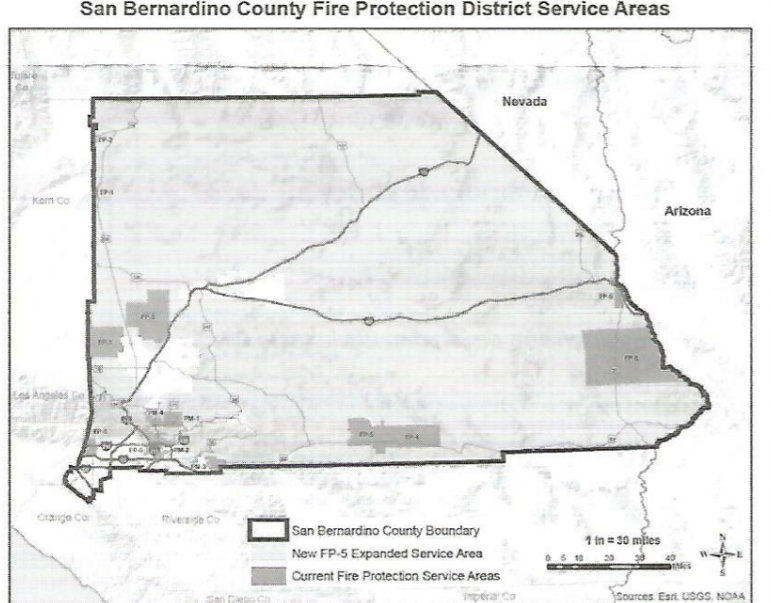
Pursuant to Health & Safety Code 13950-13951 (Fire Protection District Law of 1987) and Government Code Section 6061; the District Board is acting in the public's interest by proposing the expanding of Service Zone FP-5 to raise additional revenue for maintenance of existing services. Service Zone FP-5 will be expanded to include all territory within the jurisdiction of the District that is not currently included in Service Zone FP-5. Although the city of Upland and the area of San Antonio Heights were previously annexed into Service Zone FP-5, they are included in this proposal to address concerns raised by a taxpayer's group. A description of the boundaries to be added and those areas which are statutorily exempt are listed in Attachment A of the proposed Resolution (June 12, 2018).

Service Zone FP-5 will result in the levy of an annual amount of \$157.26, with a maximum 3% inflationary factor, on each parcel, for annual revenue of ~\$26.9 million. The levy is intended to replace any San Bernardino County Fire Protection District existing tax or fee to include FP-1,2,3,4 & 6 and PM 1,2,3 & 4. Anticipated revenue will enable the continuance of existing service levels and provide for future capital needs.

After the publication of this notice and prior to the conclusion of the public hearing, but not thereafter, any owner of land within the territory of the aforementioned expansion of the service zone may file a written protest against the change in boundaries of the service zone. All written protests shall be considered public records.

The public hearing may be continued from time to time but not to exceed sixty (60) days from the above date. At the hearing, the District Board shall hear and receive any oral or written protests, objections, or evidence that is made, presented, or filed. Any person who has filed a written protest may withdraw that protest at any time prior to the conclusion of the hearing.

The district is not responsible for any delays caused by the Postal Service for any protest submitted by regular mail. Allow sufficient time for the mail to be delivered prior to the protest hearing.

Visit www.sbcfire.org to view: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protest Form and Instructions• Frequently Asked Questions• Map of the territory impacted• District Board Proposed Resolutions• Attachment A	
To obtain a protest form: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit www.sbcfire.org• Contact "211"	
Mail Protests to: <p><i>Service Zone FP-5 Expansion Protest</i> 157 W 5th Street 2nd Floor San Bernardino, CA 92415 - 0451</p>	
Return Protests in person: <p>San Bernardino County Fire Protection District 157 W 5th Street 2nd Floor San Bernardino, CA 92415</p>	

What's this about? The County Fire Protection District, formed on June 20, 2008, seeks to expand its taxing area to Mentone, as follows: "EXPANSION OF BOUNDARY FOR SERVICE ZONE FP-5 OF THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT **All of the unincorporated territory in the County of San Bernardino,** State of (cont'd on p. 2)

OP-ED

Another tax – or the raising of a present tax, with the potential of a 3% increase! While MM believes that the Fire Protection District should have the funds it needs to operate effectively, it also believes that the cost should be borne by the properties who are located in the areas subject to wildfires, not those located in a non-wildfire-prone area, like

Mentone. Those who choose to live in wildfire-prone areas usually pay extra to do so; why not impose this tax on them, rather than on us?

It is not clear how the unincorporated territory in Montclair's sphere of influence escaped the imposition of this tax.

As one of, perhaps, his last acts as our Supervisor which would impact Mentone, James Ramos *actually moved for* and – of course - voted for this increased tax, while Supervisor Rutherford voted against it. Ramos was very good at speechifying, telling us months ago at a MACA meeting how interested he is *in the area where he grew up*. However, when handed a copy of Redlands' "Measure U" and asked what he was going to do to help Mentone stave off Redlands' takeover, Ramos looked blank and, of course, his office has done nothing.

Now, Ramos wants to be our Assemblyman. Obviously, what he would do in the Assembly – as he has done on the County Board of Supervisors - is promote himself and his special interests, not participate in any legislation that will protect or at least assist Mentone.

That this action seems underhanded and not conducted properly – attempting to slip this through without our really knowing much about it, much less understand it - is evident from the fact that the Fire Protection District used our Mill Creek Cattle Company for a meeting in August but somehow failed to notify us residents so we could attend. Even the Lotitos were in the dark about what the meeting entailed and who would attend or was invited.

As ever, we welcome your news and announcements that are of general interest to the whole community. Just e-mail mentonematters@gmail.com or mentonematters@aol.com. You may have noticed information is missing from some articles: we publish all information we receive. So please include all information, such as the names of people in any photos, dates, times, etc., of coming events. In short, what *you'd* like to see in the newspaper. MM

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Published occasionally, as we
have news

PROTEST (Cont'd)

California, **together with those portions of lands lying within the incorporated boundaries of the following Cities: . . . City of Redlands. .**

. . ." Some cities, such as Redlands, are exempt, according to the website, because they already have their own fire protection districts.

I threw the notice away because I thought it was junk mail, or I mislaid it. How can I get the protest form? Mentone Matters attempted to insert the protest form, for its readers' convenience; however, that was impossible. Mentone Matters attached the protest form to the e-mail of this issue as a separate document; otherwise, concerned property owners are urged to go to sbcfire.org and click on "Service Zone FP-5 Information" for the form and instructions.

Why is my one protest important?

From The Board of Supervisors' Resolution 2018-100:

"SECTION 8. Upon conclusion of the protest hearing, the District Board shall determine the value of written protests filed and not withdrawn. **If at least 25% of the number of landowners within the affected territory who own at least 25% of the assessed value of land within the territory affected submit a protest, then the District Board shall order by resolution that the formation or change in boundaries of the service zone be submitted for confirmation by the voters.**

"SECTION 9. **If protests constituting greater than 50% of the number of landowners within the affected territory who own at least 50% of the assessed value of land within the territory affected, submit protests, then the action to form or change the boundaries of a service zone will be withdrawn by the District Board.** "

"SECTION 10. **In the event that protests of less than 25% of the number of landowners of at least 25% of the assessed value of the affected area are received, then the District Board may, by adoption of the final resolution, form the new service zone or change the boundaries of an existing service zone.**" [Emphasis is supplied by MM.]

The Resolution instructs:

"SECTION 5. Each written protest shall show the date that each signature was affixed to the protest. **All signatures without a date or bearing a date prior to the date of publication of the notice shall be disregarded for purposes of the ascertaining the value of any written protest. . .**

"SECTION 7. At the protest hearing, prior to consideration of protests, the District Board's resolution making determinations regarding the formation or change in boundaries of service zones shall be summarized. At that hearing, the District Board shall hear and receive any oral or written protests, objections, or evidence that is made, presented, or filed. Any person who has filed a written protest may withdraw that protest at any time prior to the conclusion of the hearing."

The Resolution to expand the district reported: “On Tuesday, June 12, 2018, **on motion** of Director Ramos, duly seconded by Director Hagman and carried, the following resolution is adopted by the Board of Directors of San Bernardino County Fire Protection District.”

Voted:

AYES: DIRECTORS: James Ramos, Curt Hagman, Josie Gonzales

NOES: DIRECTORS: Robert A. Lovingood, Janice Rutherford

ABSENT: DIRECTORS: None

The Resolution establishing the rules quoted above carried the same votes by the same Directors.

How ong do I have to get my protest in?

- **October 15, 2018:** Last day to receive mail-in protest letters. Must be received by close of business.
- **October 16, 2018:** Last day to receive walk-in protest letters. Must be received by the closing of the public hearing.
- **October 16, 2018:** Public Hearing 10 am, San Bernardino County Government Center, 1st Floor Covington Chamber. MM

LOCAL CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS:

MACA (Mentone Area Community Association) meets the second Tuesday of each month in Diamond Jim’s Saloon (at the rear of the Mill Creek Cattle Company) 1874 Mentone Blvd., 6:30 p.m. Ample parking wraps around a neighboring home.

C.O.M.E.T./CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Meetings: last Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Rocky Point Fellowship in the back meeting room.

September meeting: Arlene Blas was presented with a plaque for her many years of service as treasurer. She has moved out of the area and Warren Wendell has taken over as treasurer.

MariBeth Lotito, owner of Mill Creek Cattle Company Restaurant and Diamond Jim’s Saloon, notified chamber members that the Fire Protection District had held a meeting on August 21, 2018, at the Restaurant, but failed to publicize it; the Lotitos only were told that some fire people were going to meet. The meeting was attended by about 10 people.

A report that the fire station needs work was corrected to state that the County will repair it; however, the old station, next door (reportedly where the stagecoach went through) needs to be xeriscaped and volunteers are welcome to participate. To raise money for the supplies, it was suggested that organizations or individuals “adopt” a fire hydrant.

Maribeth’s gift baskets will be available at the Chili Cookoff on the 29th, on Wabash, across from Stater’s parking lot.

Leonette DiMuro answered the Senior Center’s request for help (see below) and reported that 30-50 seniors attend on any given Tuesday morning. Thank you, Leonette, for stepping up!

Bus service has been restored to Mentone, largely through the efforts of David Wilder, COMET/Chamber chairman/president.

The “pot shop” at 1820 Mentone Boulevard opens and closes occasionally; although pot is legal under State laws, it is still illegal under Federal law and this County follows Federal law.

James (“Jim”) Holbrook spoke briefly: he seeks to be elected to Area 6 of the governing board of San Bernardino County College District; the District covers from Redlands Boulevard east to Big Bear and south from Running Springs. He is a retired educator of firemen and paramedics at Crafton Hills College. One of his ideas to pursue would be a Digital Media Academy, teaching students website development, etc. Angie DeLaRosa stated that a lady called the Chamber office and reported that a local psychic had cheated her out of \$40,000 for a crystal from Canada that would reputedly stop her husband from dying. Angie mentioned that this story was also on TV and that seniors particularly should be warned about this scam. Steve Hellerman, who lives across the Zanja from the property now being developed on Wabash (across from the Crafton Elementary School), reported that the property developer hired an outside firm to determine whether to ameliorate the contaminated ground, that the report consumed 300 pages, and that the tanks have apparently been removed (see a previous issue on the late-night work on the property).

Mentone Senior Center, 1331 Opal Avenue (in the Library building): Senior Breakfast on Tuesday mornings. Call 909/794-0327 for more information.

OTHER LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS*: (Religious organizations meet on Sundays unless otherwise noted)

Rocky Point Fellowship
2116 Mentone Blvd.,
Mentone, 92359

Avodah Fellowship (Friday nights):
Rocky Point Fellowship (in the
fellowship hall)
2116 Mentone Blvd., Mentone,
92359

Faith Chapel
1259 Agate Ave.,
Mentone, CA 909-863-8145

Seventh-Day Adventist Church of
Mentone (English and Spanish)
(Saturdays 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.)
1230 Olivine Ave., Mentone
Mentonechurch.org

Mentone Indonesian-American
Seventh-Day Adventist Church
(Saturdays)
1331 Turquoise Ave.,
Mentone, CA 909-799-3521

New Life Christian Women's Luncheon
@ Mill Creek Cattle Co.,
1874 Mentone Blvd., Mentone, First
Wednesday each month, 10-2

Republican Committee Tea Party,
Mill Creek Cattle Co., 1st Thursday of
the month

AA/NA Rocky Point Fellowship,
2116 Mentone Blvd.,
Mentone, 92359, Tuesdays

**Organizations that aren't listed here are welcome to contact mentonematters@aol.com to have their information included.*

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